

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1 (Currently Amended). An information retrieval apparatus for searching a set of information items, the apparatus comprising:

 a mapping processor operable to generate data representative of a map of information items from a set of information items, the map providing the information items with respect to positions in an array in accordance with a mutual similarity of the information items, similar information items mapping to similar positions in the array,

 a graphical user interface for displaying a representation of at least some of the information items, and

 a user control operable in response to a user input to select ~~for selecting~~ an information item, wherein and

 a search processor [[is]] operable to perform a related search with respect to the user selected information item by identifying, from the map, information items which correspond to positions in the array which are neighbouring positions with respect to the array position corresponding to the user selected information item.

2 (Original). An information retrieval apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the search processor is operable to search the set of information items in accordance with a search query and to identify information items corresponding to the search query, and the mapping processor is operable to generate the map data of information items identified by the search processor as a result of the search on the search query.

3 (Original). An information retrieval apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the graphical user interface is operable to display a representation of at least some of the

positions of the array corresponding to identified information items as an n-dimensional display array of display points within a display area.

4 (Currently Amended). An information retrieval apparatus as claimed in Claim [[1]] 3, wherein the a number of dimensions n is two, and a position in the array being is defined by x, y co-ordinates.

5 (Original). An information retrieval apparatus as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the search processor is operable to perform a related search with respect to the user selected information item by identifying information items which correspond to positions in the array which are within a radius of positions from the array position corresponding to the user selected information item.

6 (Currently Amended). An information retrieval apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the user control is operable to provide the user with a facility for specifying the a number of neighbouring positions in accordance with a relative similarity of the information items to be searched by the search processor in the related search, with respect to the array position of interest.

7 (Currently Amended). A method for searching a set of information items, the method comprising:

generating data representative of a map of information items from a set of information items, the map providing the information items with respect to positions in an array in accordance with a mutual similarity of the information items, similar information items mapping to similar positions in the array,

displaying a representation of at least some of the information items on a graphical user interface, and

selecting an information item in response to a user input, and
wherein a search processor performs performing a related search with respect to the user selected information item by identifying, from the map, information items which correspond to positions in the array which are neighbouring positions with respect to the array position corresponding to the user selected information item.

8 (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 7, further comprising:

searching the information items in accordance with a search query,

identifying information items corresponding to the search query, and

the generating the map data comprises

generating the map data of information items identified by the search processor as a result of the search on the search query.

9 (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 8, further comprising:

displaying a representation of at least some of the positions of the array that

correspond to identified information items as an n-dimensional display array of display points

within a display area.

10 (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 9, wherein the number of dimensions n is two, and a position in the array being is defined by x, y co-ordinates.

11 (Original). A method as claimed in Claim 10, wherein the performing the related search comprises performing a related search with respect to the user selected information

item by identifying information items which correspond to positions in the array which are within a radius of positions from the array position corresponding to the user selected information item.

12 (Currently Amended). A method as claimed in ~~Claim-12~~ 11, wherein the user control is operable to provide the user with a facility for specifying the radius of positions in accordance with a relative similarity of the information item to be searched by the search processor in the related search, with respect to the array position of interest.

13 (Currently Amended). A storage medium providing computer Computer software having program code, which when executed on a computer causes the computer to for carrying out a method according to claim 7.

14 (Canceled).

15 (Canceled).

16 (Canceled).